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CAFÉ AT THE HOTEL NETHERLANDS, NEW YORK CITY.

DESIGNED AND EXECUTED BY JAMES T. HALL & CO., NEW YORK CITY.



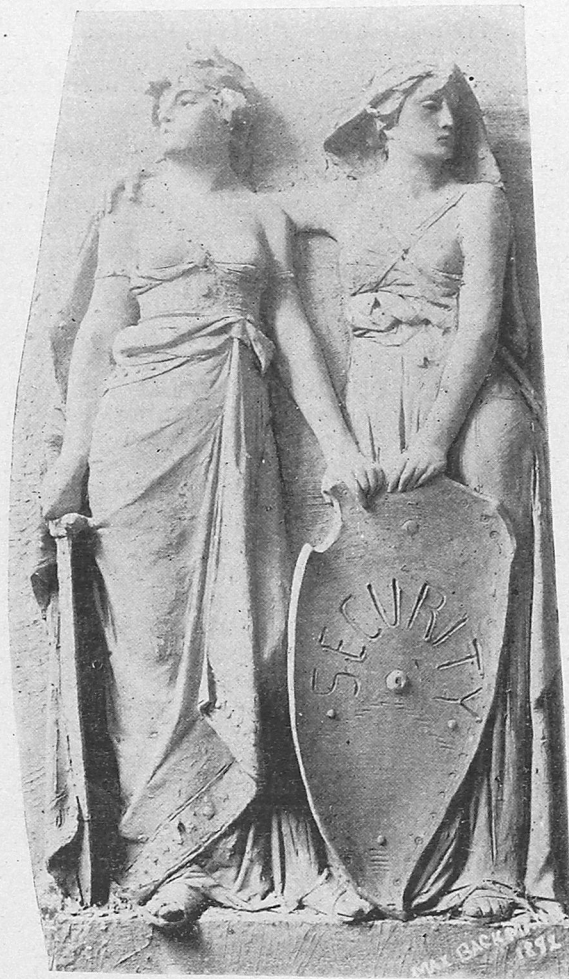
ERTAINLY nothing can give so much pleasure to the eye as a beautifully decorated and furnished room. It fills us with a certain sense of rest and satisfaction; perhaps we are unconscious of the cause, but the result is there just the same. Such results can only be brought about by a complete unity of the many little details that go to the making up of such an apartment, and this means thorough and comprehensive study on the part of the decorator. The present day decorator,

if he has reached a position of distinction in the public eye, appreciates this fact fully, and as a rule his work well demonstrates this appreciation; it is, in fact, a part of his stock in trade, without which he would not have attained his pedestal at all. The interior of the café at the Hotel Netherlands, designed and decorated by James T. Hall & Co., of this city, shows clearly the appreciation of this important factor, and their thorough and correct knowledge of architectural epochs. This is a beautiful and correct example of the Italian Renaissance at its best period, when daintiness and delicacy of exquisite moulded and carved details were most pronounced. The Italian Renaissance has always been noted for its extreme delicacy of character, and the consummate beauty and elegance of its forms and carvings, consequently it is a style easily ruined by clumsy and ignorant handling.

Such is not the case in the present example. Every little detail and accessory shows careful thought, and the result is a dignified, artistic and satisfying interior. The illustration gives but an inadequate idea of it; one has to see to fully appreciate. We will, however, endeavor to give a suggestion of the detail and coloring, which may be of interest. The woodwork is of deep reddish oak, elaborately and beautifully carved, yet in no manner overdone or inappropriate. The panels of the timbered ceiling and frieze are decorated with glass mosaic, the coloring a rich mingling of greens and blues on a gold background. Here is a case in point where ignorance, or an inadequate color sense, would have been disastrous, as these, of all colors, are the most difficult to combine harmoniously. This is a beautiful specimen of Venetian work, executed and imported especially for this apartment, and is the finest piece of modern work of this character in the country.

The first impression received by the incomer on entering, is an acute sense of architectural beauty, combined with a satisfying influence, that a correct and carefully-studied color scheme is bound to give; a feeling of perfect harmony and rest, that can only be brought about by acquired knowledge of decorative fitness and completion, on the part of the decorator.

The walls are hung with rich silk and wool tapestries in harmonious tones, as are the draperies and furniture coverings; all go toward the making up of a refined and beautiful interior that is, as it should be, a pride to the owners and a source of satisfaction to the decorators. Frequenters of the hotel in the past may recall this as the former reading-room, but it is hardly recognizable in its new guise.



TERRA COTTA FIGURES, DESIGNED FOR A LARGE INSURANCE BUILDING.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NOTES.

TO THE connoisseur of wines the Buck corkscrew is certainly a splendid affair. This is finely tipped with silver, and would last some three generations if well cared for. The value is ten dollars.

Of trifles for presents there is the new cracker spoon, a more artistic ice-cream fork, a spoon for the French potato, individual asparagus tongs at two dollars each, a honey knife, sherbet spoons, nine dollars a dozen, salad fork, nothing like the old, very new in design. Then there are sleeve-buttons and studs of black enamel, an art revived, which will be, no doubt, a delight for the seeker after the new. Purses especially for ladies are now in various skins, the corner decoration being an Empire wreath, with the torch set in garnets.

But the great and the best point is to select some tasteful object—not too expensive in price, yet good of its kind, and see, above all, that it is well boxed—and if a gift is carefully wrapped and tied with either ribbon or cord of good color, any woman will be fully satisfied. Any man will be highly pleased when the great day comes, and will think that the choosing of that Christmas gift after all was a real, genuine pleasure, not to be denied on this annual presentation day, once a year.

As a simple present there is the lemonade or sherbet spoon. The handle serves as a straw, while the bowl secures all seeds, and it can be purchased for one dollar and a quarter.